

Vision for JO Ranch

The JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 22, 2010. The Bureau of Land Management has a vision of preservation, stabilization and interpretation for public education and enjoyment for this "hidden gem" on public lands.

Visitors are cautioned that the threat of Hanta Virus is present in all of the buildings and is clearly posted.

Long term goals for the ranch buildings include stabilization efforts to remove hazards to human safety and allow for recreational opportunities as well as development of an interpretive program.

A working ranch, important historical values, crucial winter range for big game and sensitive species habitat provide interpretive and educational opportunities for BLM to showcase multiple use in Southern Wyoming.



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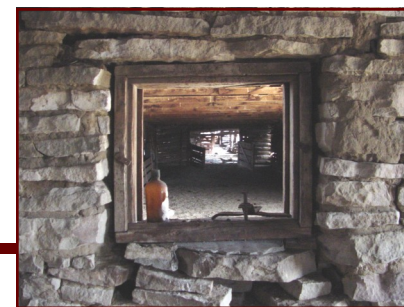
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Preserving the Heritage of the West

JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape



Rawlins Field Office



Balanced Stewardship on Public Lands

JO Ranch

The land that became the JO Ranch was patented to Joseph P. Rankin in 1885, more famously known for his grueling 28-hour ride from Milk Creek to warn troops at Fort Steele that Major Thornburgh had been killed and the remaining troops were under siege. Joseph's brother James patented land northeast of the buildings, where the present north pasture sits today.

The Ranch represents a rare and well-preserved example of a late nineteenth and early twentieth



century western sheep ranching operation in southwestern

Carbon County, Wyoming. After the devastating livestock losses suffered in the winter of 1886-1887, the cattle industry was crippled the open range system of ranching ended. The end of open range allowed the fledgling sheep industry to grow, especially along the Union Pacific Railroad corridor in southern Wyoming, which pro-

vided a means for sheep to be effectively shipped to distant markets. Few outstanding examples of this type of site remain. The JO Ranch also represents traditional Spanish sheep management practices that developed in southwestern Wyoming.



The JO Ranch provides a unique opportunity to learn about the individuals who visited the ranch

during its operation. Many dates and signatures written on the walls of the shearing barn come from the people who once worked at the ranch. Some of the signatures belong to the ancestors



and to people who continue to live in the area today.

